



Welcome to Jenkinson's Aquarium Self-Guided Tour

Jenkinson's Aquarium opened in 1991 with a variety of exhibits representing both local and exotic animals and their habitats.

The aquarium's mission is to Inspire a Sea of Change.

As you enter the aquarium you will arrive in our Mangrove Area. Mangrove trees can be found along many coasts in tropical and subtropical climates. Their complex "prop root" systems provide a home for many marine animals. Because of this, many animals, including rays and sharks, use these areas as nurseries for their young. Our Mangrove habitat is home to Atlantic rays, fiddler rays, and silver moonies. In this area, you can also find yellow tangs, jellies, and seahorses.

As you continue, you'll find our Kemp's Ridley sea turtle and assorted fish. Our sea turtle, Ace, is an ambassador for her wild cousins who are the most endangered of the seven species of sea turtle. She's usually sleeping in the corner, but you might be lucky enough to see her swimming around. Ace is a rescue. She stranded herself in 1995 in New England. She suffered from frostbite and was cold-stunned. After spending many years at different facilities, she was deemed non-releasable due to her visual impairment. Ace arrived at the aquarium in 2006 and has been here ever since! Also housed in this habitat are many Pacific Ocean native fish, as well as leopard sharks, horn sharks, and a brown-banded bamboo shark.

The colorful fish you see in the next habitat live near coral reefs. Corals are animals, but their bright colors come from zooxanthellae, plants living within their tissue. Coral is an invertebrate animal with a calcium carbonate skeleton and is found as a polyp or in colonies. We use artificial coral in this habitat because many of these fish feed on coral. Coral reefs grow very slowly and would be hard to maintain in a habitat this size. The closest reefs to New Jersey are found off the coast of Florida and in the Caribbean. Here at the aquarium, we are part of the Florida Reef Tract Rescue Project, which is a conservation network focused on the rescue, housing, and future propagation of Florida corals affected by stony coral tissue loss disease.

The next habitat is the largest one in the aquarium, containing 58,000 gallons of water. This habitat is home to a variety of shark species, including a sandtiger shark, nurse sharks, blacktip reef sharks, and spotted wobbegongs. southern rays, cownose rays, and various fish species also call this habitat home. You can use the identification guide on the TV mounted on the wall in the middle of the habitat to help you.

Sharks and rays are known as cartilaginous fish due to their skeletal structure being made mostly out of cartilage (the same material that makes up our noses and ears). The other fish housed in this habitat are known as bony fish, since their skeletal structure is made up mostly of bone.

You may be wondering why the sharks do not eat the other fish in the habitat with them. Sharks are opportunistic feeders, which means they will mostly prey on animals that are injured, sick, dying, or already dead. Our fish are kept healthy, so the sharks aren't interested in them. Our sharks are fed more often than what they might eat in the ocean, keeping them well-fed.

Out of the 350+ species of sharks, only a few are known to pose a threat to humans. Humans are a bigger threat to sharks since we kill more sharks annually. Due to this, many shark populations are in decline. Other threats to sharks are overfishing, pollution, and shark finning.

Along our boardwalk, we have a variety of free-standing habitats, including clownfish (all of which were hatched and raised here!), and frogfish. On the boardwalk, you can find our American bullfrog, freshwater crayfish, axolotls, ball python, fish of the Mekong river, and our turtle pond. Docked next to the pond is the prop model of the HMS Bounty. This model was used in two movie adaptations of *Mutiny on the Bounty*. Be sure to check out the video on the opposite side of the Bounty to see the restoration and transport of the ship to the aquarium.

The last habitat in this area is our Indian Ocean Habitat. Here you can see a zebra shark, bamboo sharks, fiddler rays, and others. Several species of fish and eels also call this habitat home. You can use the identification guide to the right of the habitat to help you. These sharks are smaller in size but are not considered babies. Most shark species do not get larger than 6 feet long, the smallest species (dwarf lantern shark) is about the size of a pencil! However, the largest species of shark, the whale shark, can get as big as 33 feet long!

Need a bathroom break? Our restrooms and changing table are located next to this habitat, as well as a water fountain. Snap some fun photos in our photo booth too!

As you continue on your way, don't forget to say hi to our Pacific harbor seal, Noelani. At this underwater view, you can see our seal swimming around, playing with her enrichment items, or napping at the bottom of the habitat. Did you know harbor seals can hold their breath for up to 30 minutes?

Make your way upstairs to our upper level to see our seal up there as well, but don't forget to stop at our Touch Pool! This habitat contains animals such as horseshoe crabs, pencil sea urchins, common sea stars, and whelks (sea snails). With the help of one of our educators, as long as you have no hand sanitizer or lotion on, you may take two fingers and gently touch some of our animals. Be sure not to pick up any of the animals, for they are aquatic and must remain in the water. These animals are alive, even though they don't move around too much. There is also a dry touch bin next to the Touch Pool with shells, egg cases, and other fun items that can be found right outside on our beaches! After interacting with our local animals, please make sure to wash your hands at our sinks located on the other side of the room.

Explore the high biodiversity of the Coral Reefs, located in some of our center habitats. Starting with our Indo-Pacific Habitat, composed of real corals, along with a variety of fish, read all about the species on the identification guide located to the right of the habitat.

Across the way, next to our Touch Pool, is our New Jersey Natives Habitat. This habitat has various species of fish and crustaceans native to New Jersey waters, such as spider crabs and a lobster. This lobster is known as a calico lobster due to its spotted pattern. These are extremely rare! Only one in thirty million lobsters hatched have this coloration!

As you look behind you, be sure to say hi to our garden eels and shrimpfish. These small eels will burrow into the sand and live in that burrow for the rest of their lives. The shrimpfish are close relatives to seahorses and swim upside down!

You are now beginning to step into our Rainforest Area! Did you ever wonder what a rainforest might look like? From Amazon milky frogs to monkeys and colorful parrots, you will feel like you have gone from ocean to rainforest in just a few steps. Tropical rainforests are found circling the Earth near the equator. They are hot, humid, and wet with rainfall amounts from 80 inches to over 400 inches per year. Rainforests are noted for their biodiversity with an amazing variety of plants, insects, birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals. Although they cover only about 6% of our planet's surface, rainforests contain 50% of all plant and animal species on Earth, including 90% of the world's primate species, 100% of all 330 species of parrots, and millions of insects.

Look for Pacal, our pygmy marmoset, and Stinky, our saddleback tamarin. They live in the canopy (the upper level) of the rainforest and rarely, if ever, come down to the ground. Pygmy marmosets (which are the smallest species of monkey in the world!) weigh approximately 6 ounces, that's about the same weight as a half can of soda! The saddleback tamarin is a type of monkey that is very closely related to the marmoset, differing mainly in size (tamarins are slightly larger than marmosets). Both these animals like to feed on various fruits, flowers, nectar, and tree gum in the rainforests of Central and South America, as well as insects!

Next up is our Parrot Habitat. We have two blue-and-gold macaws, Poncho and Bluebeard, and a Moluccan cockatoo, Louie. These birds usually live in pairs or small family groups. Moluccan or salmon-crested cockatoos are found in the Southern Moluccan Islands of Ceram, Saparua, and Haruku in the South Pacific. Blue-and-gold macaws can be found in Brazil, Venezuela, and Columbia. They eat a variety of fruits, nuts, seeds, berries, flowers, vegetables and insects. These animals are starting to disappear from their home ranges due to habitat destruction, trapping for the pet trade, and hunting.

Across from the Parrots, be sure to enjoy our Caribbean Reef habitat, home to redspotted hawkfish, yellowhead jawfish, neon gobies, and other fish species. Be on the lookout for our octopus, located in the next habitat. As you are strolling along, catch a glimpse of our Pinecone Fish, which are native to tropical and subtropical waters of the Indo-Pacific. They get their names for the large, plate-like scales resembling a pinecone.

Make your way towards our venomous lionfish. These lionfish are an invasive species to the Atlantic Coast, meaning they are not originally from here. They are typically found in the South Pacific and Indian Oceans. Due to their introduction, they are outcompeting native species for prey and disrupting the food chain. This is a prime example of why animals should never be removed from their habitat. Due to the surplus of lionfish that are now overtaking areas they have not previously lived in, chefs are learning new ways to prepare lionfish to help lessen their population in the wild.

Now, don't forget to stop by the habitat of our Sloth, Wally! Wally is a Linnaeus's two-toed sloth who came to us in April of 2018. His species of sloth can be found in South America. Sloths can sleep up to 18 hours a day. Often, Wally can be found slumbering in his bucket with his plush sloth. When

he is not sleeping, you can see him foraging and enjoying his food made up of vegetables and fruits. His favorite food item is squash. A sloth's whole skeletal structure, muscular system, and joint anatomy are adapted to support an upside-down lifestyle. Unfortunately, sloth populations in the wild are decreasing due to habitat loss and wildlife trafficking.

Next door is our Milky Tree Frog Habitat. These frogs get their name from the milky white substance they secrete when they are stressed. Enjoy our Poison Dart Frog Habitat. These small frogs get their poison from the various insects they eat in the wild. Since they are not fed that food here, they are safe to touch.

Need a quick drink? Stop at our water fountain and bottle filling station.

Next, we have our ReClam the Bay Upweller and our Pinelands Habitat Area. The ReClam the Bay Upweller is a partnership habitat with the aquarium and the ReClam the Bay organization that showcases the importance of clams, mussels, and other shellfish to our bays and estuaries. Clams and other shellfish feed on microalgae in the water column, filtering the water as they do this. A full-grown oyster can filter 50 gallons of water in a day! This makes them an integral part of the bay ecosystem.

The Pinelands or "Pine Barrens" is the largest continuous forested area from Boston, Massachusetts to Richmond, Virginia. In New Jersey, the Pinelands Reserve covers 1.1 million acres of land. Due to the area's sandy, acidic, nutrient-poor soil, early settlers from the 1600s gave it the name "Pine Barrens" because of its inability to grow traditional food crops. These uncommon conditions led the Pinelands to develop a unique and diverse spectrum of plant life, especially orchids and carnivorous plants. The carnivorous plants adapted to poor soil conditions by getting their nutrients from "eating" insects. The porous soil also acts like a natural filter. Rainwater passes through the soil, gets filtered, and ends up in the Kirkwood-Cohanesy Aquifer, which contains over 17 trillion gallons of freshwater. This natural aquifer is essential for all life in the Pinelands - human, animal, and plant.

Our Pinelands Area includes several animal species that are disappearing from this unique habitat. Starting next to the Upweller, we have two habitats with Northern diamondback terrapins. The first one is for our hatchlings that are part of the Project Terrapin head-starting program. As they grow larger and their chance of survival increases, they will be released into the Barnegat Bay. Next to the hatchlings are the adult terrapins. Make sure to stop by to see our tiger salamanders.

Our Eastern screech owls are next! These small owls can be found throughout many areas of the eastern United States. They can sport feathers with either grey or brown-red coloration. Our screech owls, Lefty and Red, are both visually impaired. They came to the aquarium after being deemed "non-releasable". Lefty came to the aquarium in April of 2015 and Red arrived in January of 2018. Since owls are nocturnal, they are active mostly at night.

The last couple of habitats in the Pinelands Area are our pine snake, spotted turtle, and Northern gray treefrogs. Across from these exhibits is the top view of our Shark Habitat. This is where we feed our sharks. Our sharks are fed three times a week. We pole-feed each shark individually and most of them are station-trained (trained to go to a specific part of the habitat to feed).

As you continue, you'll be able to see Noelani pop her head out of the water for a breath of air. Noelani is visually impaired. She stranded herself on a beach in California and was brought to the Marine Mammal Center after she was found. Noelani also suffers from hydrocephalus and brain

atrophy, which is thought to contribute to her blindness. She was deemed “non-releasable” and after rehabilitating at the center, was then moved to our aquarium in April of 2018.

Harbor seals can be found in the eastern and western parts of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in the Northern Hemisphere. They are mammals - breathe air with lungs, have hair or fur, are warm-blooded, give live birth, and nurse young with milk produced by the mother. They are part of a group called “pinnipeds”, meaning “fin-footed”. This group includes true seals, eared seals, and walruses. Harbor seals are considered true seals - they lack an external ear flap, make little to no vocalizations, move on land by inching along on their bellies, and swim using their rear flippers to propel them forward and the front flippers to steer. Eared seals, like sea lions, have external ear flaps, make loud, barking-like noises, can “walk” on land by rotating their flippers under their bodies, and swim using their front flippers to propel them forward and their rear flippers to steer.

Seals can be found on New Jersey beaches throughout the winter months. If you see a seal on the beach, never approach it. They are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. When seals are on the beach, it doesn't necessarily mean that they are injured or sick. Most likely, they are just resting. If the seal does appear to be injured or acting strange, report it to the local police or call the Marine Mammal Stranding Center.

Waddle your way down the stairs to our penguins! Did you know that not all penguins live where it's cold? Meet our African penguins. These flightless birds live off the coast of South Africa. The climate there is considered temperate. Different penguin species can be found in many different climates throughout the Southern Hemisphere. No penguins can be found living in the Northern Hemisphere. Here at Jenkinson's Aquarium, all our penguins can be identified using the bracelets on their wings. If the bracelet is on the right wing, it is a male, and if it's on the left it is a female. You can use the TV mounted on the left-hand side of the habitat to help identify our penguins. Penguins are flightless birds due to their skeletons. Flying birds have lightweight hollow bones. Penguins have solid bones, making them excellent divers and swimmers, but too heavy to fly. African penguins are listed as an endangered species due to habitat destruction, oil spills, and overfishing. Their population has experienced a 90% decline in just 10 years. Jenkinson's Aquarium is part of a Species Survival Plan to help ensure the survival of these charismatic birds!

Also in this area, we have our Standing's day gecko, Lake Victoria cichlids, square-marked toads, African green toads, and pancake tortoises. All of these species are native to Africa. Just like our penguins, the Lake Victoria cichlids are part of a conservation plan. They were thought to be extinct in the wild due to the introduction of the Nile perch into the lake. They now have been found in increasing numbers.

All done for the day? Exit through the Aquarium Gift Shop for some fun aquarium and beach souvenirs. Thank you for visiting us! We hope you enjoyed your visit and hope to see you again in the future!